

DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant(s)

1. This application has been examined. Claims 1-4, and 6-13 are pending.

The prior art submitted on 2/17/06 has been considered. However, foreign patent document (3274982) has not been considered, because the examiner has not received the document yet.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 1, is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As per claim 1, line 18, the last word, "Section", it is unclear that what "Section" applicant refers to, is "an output section" in the beginning of line 7 or something else ? Clarification is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-4, 6-13, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chowanic et al. (6175803).

As per claims 1, and 8-9, Chowanic et al. disclose a navigation apparatus, a computer program, of guiding a vehicle to a destination, comprising: a destination setting section of setting a destination in accordance with an input by a driver; a location deriving section of deriving a current location of the vehicle; a path obtaining section of obtaining a path from the current location derived by the location deriving section as a starting point to the destination set by the destination setting section (see column 1, lines 13-20; and column 2, lines 53-65); a data storing section of storing an information set including at least location information for identifying a location of a travel burden point on a road network, link information indicating a road linked to the travel burden point, and a reference hesitation value indicating a degree of a driver's hesitation to go through the travel burden point, and a characteristic value of the driver (see the abstract; column 1, lines 6-12; columns 2-3, lines 66-40; and column 4, lines 13-57); a point guidance data generating section of generating point guidance data representing guidance for the travel burden point based on the current location derived by the location deriving section, the path obtained by the path obtaining section, and the information set and the driver characteristic value stored in the data storing section (see column 1, lines 32-47; and columns 3-4, lines 40-12); and an output section of outputting the guidance for the travel burden point in accordance with the point guidance data generated by the point guidance data generating. Section, wherein the point guidance data generating section compares a reference hesitation value contained in the information set stored in the data storing section with a driver characteristic value, and based on a result of the comparison, generates point guidance data (see columns 1-2, lines 56-9; and columns 4-5, lines 58-34).

As per claim 2, Chowanic et al. disclose a travel burden point selecting section of selecting an information set of a travel burden point present within a predetermined range from the current location derived from the location deriving section, from the data storing section, based on the path obtained by the path obtaining section and the current location, wherein the point guidance data generating section generates point guidance data based on the information set selected by the travel burden point selecting section (see columns 1-2, lines 56-9; and column 4, lines 13-57).

As per claim 3, Chowanic et al. disclose the point guidance data generating section compares a reference hesitation value contained in the information set selected by the travel burden point selecting section with a driver characteristic value, and based on a result of the comparison, generates point guidance data (see columns 4-5, lines 58-33).

As per claim 4, Chowanic et al. disclose the output section outputs a voice in accordance with the point guidance data generated by the point guidance data generating section (see column 1, lines 13-20; and column 2, lines 35-52).

As per claim 6, Chowanic et al. disclose the travel burden point is any of a bridge, an entrance of a tunnel, a grade crossing, an entrance point of an elevated road, a point where a road width suddenly becomes narrower, an entrance of a mountain road, an intersection where a road on which the vehicle is traveling intersects a road having a broader road width, an entrance of a shopping street, a point where a shrine gate is present, a point where a sign board or a road sign indicating that a destination is present in a direction different from a travel direction of a vehicle, and an entrance/exit of a parking lot (see columns 2-3, lines 66-40; and column 4, lines 13-57).

Claim 7, is a method claim corresponding to a system apparatus 1 above. Therefore, it is rejected for the same rationales set forth as above.

As per claims 10, and 12-13, Chowanic et al. disclose a navigation apparatus, a computer program, of guiding a vehicle to a destination, comprising: a destination setting section of setting a destination in accordance with an input by a driver; a location deriving section of deriving a current location of the vehicle; a path obtaining section of obtaining a path from the current location derived by the location deriving section as a starting point to the destination set by the destination setting section (see column 1, lines 13-20; and column 2, lines 53-65); a calculation section of calculating a reference hesitation value indicating a degree of a driver's hesitation to go through a travel burden point on a road network after the path obtaining section obtains the path (see column 1, lines 21-31; and columns 4-5, lines 58-34); a data storing section of storing an information set including at least the reference hesitation value calculated by the calculation section of the travel burden point, location information for identifying a location of the travel burden point, and link information indicating a road linked to the travel burden point, and a characteristic value of the driver (see column 1, lines 21-31; columns 2-3, lines 66-40; and column 4, lines 13-57); a point guidance data generating section of generating point guidance data representing guidance for the travel burden point based on the current location derived by the location deriving section, the path obtained by the path obtaining section, and the information set and the driver characteristic value stored in the data storing section (see column 1, lines 32-47; and columns 3-4, lines 41-12); and an output section of outputting the guidance for the travel burden point in accordance with the point guidance data generated by the point guidance data generating section (see column 1, lines 32-47).

Claim 11, is a method claim corresponding to a system apparatus 10 above. Therefore, it is rejected for the same rationales set forth as above.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

. Nesbitt (7133771)

. Blumbergs et al. (6898513)

. Hasegawa et al. (6622089)

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dalena Tran whose telephone number is 571-272-6968. The examiner can normally be reached on M-W (in a first week of a bi-week), and T-R (in a second week of bi-week) from 7:00AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Khoi H. Tran can be reached on 571-272-6919. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dalena Tran/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3664
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